

Message Text

SECRET

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64

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 DHA-02

IO-13 /077 W

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R 071500Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4031

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MORROVIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T FREETOWN 3180

REF: A. STATE 243432; B. CONAKRY 2023; C. FREETOWN 2594

1. WHEN ASKED TO ESTIMATE NUMBER OF GUINEANS IN SIERRA LEONE,
PRINCIPAL IMMIGRATION OFFICER HERE REPLIED:

"OH MY GOD... THOUSANDS." EMBASSY HAS HEARD ESTIMATES
OF AS MANY AS 400,000 GUINEANS (MOSTLY FOULAHS), ALTHOUGH
FIGURE POSSIBLY COULD BE LESS. GUINEANS MOVE ACROSS
SIERRA LEONE BORDER IN LARGE NUMBERS AND UNDETECTED. EXACT
COUNT IS IMPOSSIBLE. WHILE ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE
CAUGHT SHOULD BE JAILED, EMBOFF HAS LEARNED THAT GOSL
HAS DECIDED IT CANNOT AFFORD TO IMPRISON AND FEED SUCH
LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE. ILLEGAL GUINEANS, IF
CAUGHT, ARE NOW FLOGGED AND SENT BACK TO GUINEA.

2. GUINEAN COMMUNITY IS NOT VERY ACTIVE POLITICALLY
IN SIERRA LEONE. ACCORDING TO PRINCIPAL IMMIGRATION
OFFICER, GROUPS IN OPPOSITION TO SEKOU TOURE ARE
"NOTTOLERATED" IN SIERRA LEONE. BECAUSE OF GUINEA'S

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SUPERIOR MILITARY FORCES, SIERRA LEONE WISHES TO REMAIN

ON GOOD TERMS WITH TOURE.

3. EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF ANY PROPAGANDA EFFORTS BY
GUINEAN EXILES HERE. NO NEWSPAPERS OR OTHER PUBLICATIONS
ARE SEEN, AND GUINEANS DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO GOSL
COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA.
SAMUELS

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NNN

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